

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Rebeca S. Porter,)
)
Certificate 192134)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 11, 2005. On March 2, 2005, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of hearing regarding a possible certificate suspension or revocation to Ms. Rebeca S. Porter by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Porter subsequently agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to accept the issuance of a public reprimand. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Porter.

**Accepted:
Rebeca S.
Porter
192134**

Initial Here

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Porter holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over three years of teaching experience. During the 2004-2005 school year, Ms. Porter was assigned to teach English for Students of Other Languages (ESOL) at Eastside High School in Greenville County School District. During the writing portion of the October 2004 HSPA testing, a student showed Ms. Porter a writing prompt in a test question that contained an idiomatic phrase. Ms. Porter shared the writing prompt through electronic mail (e-mail) with five teachers in the District, a college professor and the District's ESOL contact. In the e-mails, Ms. Porter stated that she was concerned that the writing prompt contained an idiomatic phrase that might cause problems for ESOL students. Ms. Porter admitted to sending the

emails and acknowledged that she should not have distributed to others the actual writing prompt.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The Board finds that the evidence presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists for a Public Reprimand to be issued to Ms. Porter for test security violations. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, which shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

May 11, 2005

I, Rebeca S. Porter, SC Teaching Certificate 192134, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on May 11, 2005.

/S/ Rebecca S. Porter
Rebeca S. Porter

4/30/05
Date